



Lawyers for the Arts Committee:

Statement of *Pro Bono* Selection Criteria

The Lawyers for the Arts Committee of the Young Lawyers Division of the Virginia Bar Association considers the following criteria in determining whether a Virginia artist's application for *pro bono* legal services is appropriate for approval and worthy of recommendation to partnering law firms:

- The extent to which the applicant engages in art as a full-time or nearly full-time vocation
- The degree to which the applicant's request for *pro bono* legal services has been endorsed or referred to the Committee by one of the Committee's institutional partners, *e.g.*, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, the Visual Arts Center of Richmond, the VCU School of Art, or the Virginia Museum of Fine Art's "Friends of Art" organization
- Whether the services for which the applicant seeks an attorney will directly advance the applicant's work *as an artist*, and not merely as a private citizen, businessperson, or entrepreneur, and whether such work is of educational value to the community
- Whether the artistic work in which the applicant is engaged, and which the *pro bono* services of an attorney would enable or further, would be considered a not insubstantial contribution to the state's or a locality's arts community by individuals who have only an amateur interest in, and knowledge of, the relevant arts community and the work of its artists
- Whether the applicant's approval by, or perceived affiliation with, the Young Lawyers Division of the Virginia Bar Association would reflect positively or poorly on the Association and the bar
- Most importantly, absent *pro bono* legal assistance from an attorney, would the applicant be able to complete or showcase the work of art, continue or develop his/her work as an artist, or realistically engage in the art-related transaction for which he/she seeks the services of an attorney?

This list of criteria is not exhaustive, and no one factor is dispositive with respect to the Committee's ultimate decision. The Committee reserves the right to consider additional factors in weighing the merits of artists' applications for *pro bono* legal services.